

SunnyKids in Early Education (SKEE)

Early Life Adversity



Millions of Australian children are exposed to domestic and family violence which affects their physical and mental wellbeing, development and schooling. It is the leading cause of children's homelessness in Australia. Children's exposure to family, domestic and sexual violence adversely affects their future health impacting their wellbeing, education, relationships and housing outcomes.

Preschool children lack the cognitive maturity to understand the meaning of what they observe and the verbal skills to articulate their feelings. Their symptoms are similar to post-traumatic stress disorder in adults. These responses to domestic and family violence lead to developmental delay, resulting in poor educational outcomes with potentially lifelong impacts on learning and cognitive ability.

Solutions and initiatives

Early intervention is critical to mitigate the long-term impacts of childhood trauma, domestic violence and adversity on children. It is vital to help them succeed socially, educationally and into their adult life.

The SunnyKids In Early Education (SKEE) program provides critical intervention in early learning centres by implementing a holistic response for children and their families as early as possible to reduce the effects of long-term trauma.

Our program plays a vital role in connecting people and linking centres and educators with support service systems to provide practical, needs based responses to the issues faced by families.

Our domestic violence specialists help identify what a child and their family needs, where to find the right services and how to navigate the network to deliver positive, life changing solutions.



Over 50% of children have experienced adversity by age 11

(Murdoch Children's Research Institute)



1 in 5 children experience 3 or more adverse childhood experiences

(BMJ Paediatrics Open)



59.5% of adults have experienced childhood adversity

(2004 S Rosenman)

INCREASED RATES OF:

- Children leaving school before year 12
- Children engaging in criminal activities
- Unhealthy behaviours
- Mental health issues
- Substance abuse

DECREASED RATES OF:

- Health outcomes
- Housing outcomes
- Learning outcomes
- Emotional development
- Employment opportunities
- Relationship outcomes
- Impulse control

Living with domestic violence can cause physical and emotional trauma to children and young people including:

- Eating and sleeping disturbances
- Low self-esteem
- Self-harm
- Trouble forming positive relationships
- Development of phobias and insomnia
- Struggle with going to school
- Aggressive behaviours
- Use bullying behaviour or become a target of bullying
- Find it hard to solve problems
- Have less empathy and care for others

About SunnyKids

SunnyKids provides essential support services to children and families experiencing domestic and family violence and hardship.

Our integrated support network provides a range of life-saving services to thousands of families in Queensland each year.

We believe it takes a village to raise a child and in doing so, work tirelessly within local communities to help educate and break the cycle of violence and hardship to create a future where this doesn't exist.

To do this we provide a social and emotional safety net for thousands of children and their families through partnerships with health and education service providers. Our unique Virtual Village practice model provides wrap-around support services to children and their families.

VISION

A society in which everyone feels safe, belongs and has the chance to reach their full potential.

MISSION

We work to ensure that every child, family and individual who needs help can get it.

SunnyKids Programs



SunnyKids in Schools



SunnyKids in Early Education



Emergency Accommodation - Save a Life Tonight



Crisis Accommodation



Transitional Housing



Mentoring Through Sports

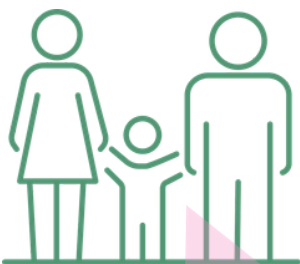


DFV Counselling / Complex Case Management



Business and Community Education

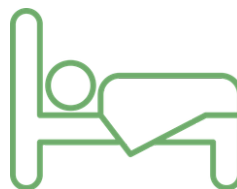
The impact of the SunnyKids village



3,607 individuals helped 2024/25 - 30% increase from 23/24



1,085 children in school based programs in 2024-25



8,262 bed nights in 2024/25



22% Government funded

How to support

Each day there are 500 reported incidents of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

To learn more about the SunnyKids impact, how you can become a part of the SunnyKids Village and support our important work - call or visit us on

Phone 07 5479 0394
SunnyKids.org.au

